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## ◆ KING CONSTANTINE'S TOTTERING THRONE ◆



THE COUNTRY  
PALACE OF TATOI, TO  
WHICH CONSTANTINE HAS  
WITHDRAWN FROM ATHENS.

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

**B**y all diplomatic and international precedent the situation in Greece is quite impossible. The most eminent statesman, whose political following includes over 80 per cent. of the nation: the principal Admiral and the foremost General have all three united in forming a provisional republican government, the authority of which already extends over the greater part of the kingdom and that has been duly recognized by the Powers of the Entente. Its President is ex-Premier Venizelos and its headquarters for the present are at Salonica. It is frankly and enthusiastically on the side of Great Britain and her allies.

On the other hand King Constantine and his Prussian Queen, a sister of the Kaiser, have been permitted to remain at Athens, to continue their pro-German policy and their efforts in behalf of the Central Powers. That they are in constant touch with Emperor William and that they are acting in accordance with his instructions and pursuing a course calculated to further his interests and to injure the interests of the Allies is a matter of general notoriety, admitted even by the Germans, who praise him for his obstinate devotion to his wife's relatives at Berlin. His attitude and his maneuvers have had the result of encouraging the more lawless element of the populace at Athens to publicly insult, and even assault, the envoys of the Entente Powers, as well as the members of their missions, and to actually attempt to invade the legation buildings, while the French Admiral, in chief command of the allied naval forces in the Mediterranean, has been hoisted and mobbed in the streets of the metropolis without any interference on the part of the police.

Small wonder then that in view of the menacing condition of affairs in the Hellenic capital the Admiral, with the approval of the allied Governments, has landed several strong detachments of sailors and marines from his warships in the adjacent port of Piræus and has marched them through the streets of Athens for the purpose of protecting the lives and the property of the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Allies.

The Admiral has a sufficiently strong force at his disposal to take complete possession of the Greek capital, to remove King Constantine from the throne and to either detain him as a prisoner of war or ship him off to Germany whenever he receives the authority to do so from the Powers of the Entente. If the latter have shown such an extraordinary amount of forbearance with Constantine, it is largely on dynastic grounds.

The King is the son of the favorite brother of Empress Marie of Russia, and of Queen Alexandra of England. His only sister and her children have made their home in Great Britain since the beginning of the war. All his brothers remain on terms of the utmost intimacy and affection with their royal and imperial relatives in London and at Petrograd. Thus, Prince Andrew has lately been staying at Windsor Castle and at Marlborough House, while Prince Christopher has been for a number of weeks at Petrograd as the guest of the Czar and the widow of the Czarina, and of his own mother, Queen Olga, who owing to her aversion for her Prussian daughter-in-law, Queen Sophia, has been making her home in the land of her birth ever since the beginning of the present reign in Greece. Still another brother of Constantine, namely, George, resides in Paris and is devoted heart and soul to the cause of France.

If France, although a republic, has shared the hesitation of Russia and Great Britain to depose Constantine, it is because she has felt that his dynasty in Greece is in a measure her offspring. For it was France who in conjunction with Great Britain and Russia secured the emancipation of the Hellenic nation from centuries of Turkish tyranny and by the destruction of the Ottoman fleet in the great naval battle of Navarino broke the power of the Sultan in that part of the world and brought modern Greece into existence.



JOHN PANAGULOPOULOS, HEAD OF THE GREEK NATIONALISTS IN AMERICA.

the throne at Athens under the name of George I. France and her two allies did everything in their power to consolidate his throne and to promote the welfare of his dynasty. They loaned money time and again to his Government. Moreover, France, Great Britain and Russia contributed throughout his reign of fifty years over \$100,000 per annum to his civil list and it will scarcely be believed that his son, King Constantine, has been drawing that same amount from the national treasuries of the three Entente Powers in question until this very day. In fact they are paying him and he is drawing their money while endeavoring to stab them in the back for the sake of his brother-in-law, the Kaiser.

Again, when some eighteen years ago Greece in defiance of the protests of these three friendly Powers persisted in embarking herself upon an unprovoked war against Turkey and was overwhelmed with ignominious defeat, it was France who with Russia and Great Britain stayed the advance of the victorious Ottoman army when, led by the Kaiser's officers, looted for the purpose, it was within a day's march of Athens. The three Powers also interfered to prevent the Sublime Porte from imposing any territorial sacrifices upon Greece for her act of aggression, and when afterward the people of Greece, ascribing their military disasters to the bad generalship of the then Crown Prince, were bent on ridding themselves of both him and of the entire royal family, it was these Powers who intervened in his behalf.

France and these two allies of hers have been called upon time and again to shield the dynasty of King George and of King Constantine from overthrow, resulting from its alien character and consequent unpopularity. That is why even France, though a republic, has joined Russia and England in hesitating so long about removing Constantine from the throne and has shown such an extraordinary amount of forbearance toward him. For all three Powers realize that his dethronement means the end of that



KING  
CONSTANTINE  
OF GREECE.



QUEEN SOPHIA OF GREECE.

dynasty in Greece, which they have sponsored and sustained for fifty-three years or more. Their patience is now, however, at an end. Popular sentiment in France, in Great Britain, in Russia, is against any further delay or indulgence. As I have said above, the situation has become impossible from a political and international point of view. The Entente Powers, by recognizing the insurrectionary Government under that popular patriot and veteran statesman Eleutherios Venizelos, have virtually pronounced the doom of the King, and ere many days are past, possibly before this article appears in print, his reign may have come to an end.

It may be hoped that public sentiment here in the United States will not be misled by the noisy demonstrations of the mob at Athens against the Powers of the Entente, nor yet by the visit of a party of Greeks, long resident in this country, to the American Legation in order to ask for the protection of the United States against the "encroachments" of the Entente Powers. The American Minister, Garrett Duggan, seems to have acted with commendable reserve, contenting himself with a promise to forward any petition placed in his hands to the State Department at Washington. For he realized full well that his visitors, who hoarded for the United States, also hoarded for Germany, and that the real object of their petition was to urge the United States to interfere for the purpose of maintaining King Constantine on his throne against the wishes of more than eighty, and perhaps ninety, per cent. of the Greek nation, and to deter the Administration at Washington from following the Powers of the Entente in recognizing the provisional republican form of government set up under the presidency of Venizelos.

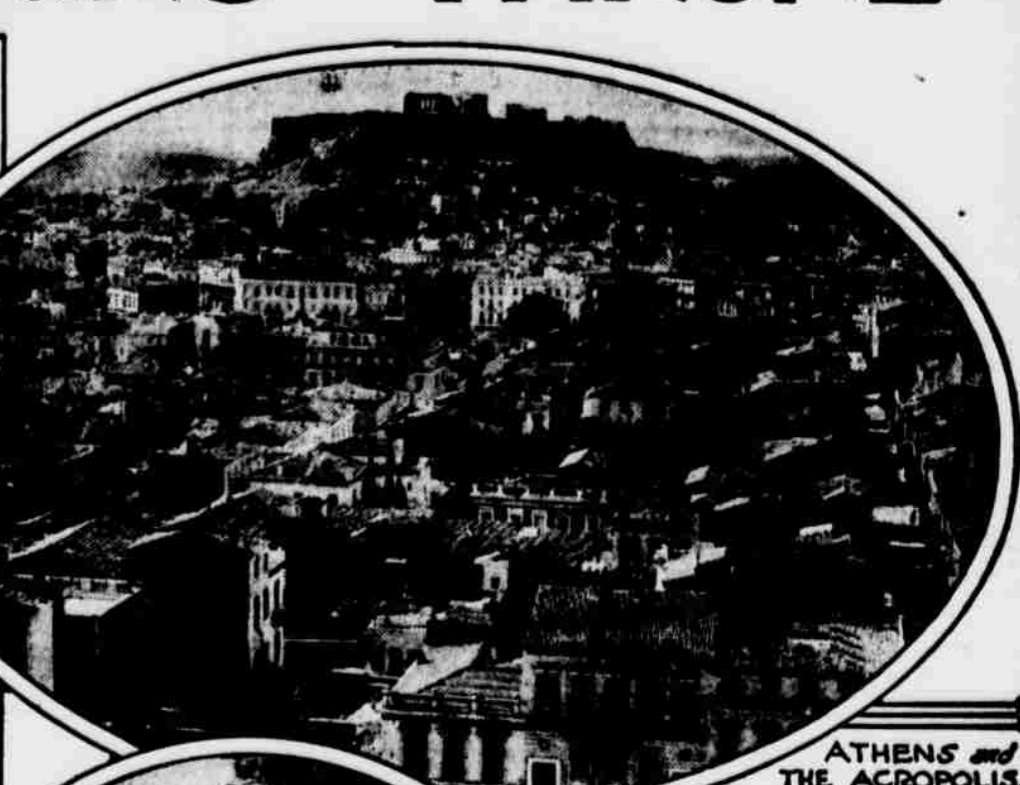
The petition presented to the American Minister at Athens, in one word, asked the United States to champion the cause of a monarch who owes his present predicament to gross and flagrant violation of the National Constitution, which he swore on the Gospels to observe, against the overwhelming majority of the Greek people. King Constantine has been guilty of absolutism in its worst and most reactionary form. And it is that which the petition of these American Greeks at Athens is urging the United States to sponsor.

Both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution by virtue of which King Constantine has held his throne provide that the administration of the Government shall be entrusted to the leaders of the political party which commands a majority in the single legislative chamber, and which may therefore be regarded as representing the majority of popular sentiment throughout the country. Now, within the last two years, there have been repeated appeals to the nation in the shape of general elections. In each case there has been a literally overwhelming majority returned in favor of Venizelos and of his pro-Ally policy. In spite of this King Constantine has not only twice dismissed Venizelos from the Premiership while at the head of a parliamentary majority, repudiating the agreements and arrangements that he and his Cabinet had contracted in the name of the nation, but has insisted upon appointing one administration after another, recruited from the infinitesimal pro-German minority in the Boule.

As these precious Cabinets, organized solely for the purpose of enabling the King and his Prussian Queen to override the will of the nation, in defiance of the terms of the Constitution, were unable to secure legislative sanction to their acts, have latterly, when the followers of Venizelos refused to take any longer a part in their deliberations, they were unable to accomplish anything beyond giving the King time to suspend the sessions of Parliament or to order a new general election, while the formation of another Cabinet equally subservient to his policies was in progress.

It is a pity that most of the news from Greece has until now reached America by way of Athens. For, as in the case of so many countries, the titular and official capital does not in any way constitute the heart of the nation, nor the centre and headquarters of public sentiment. Paris is not France, Washington is not the United States, Petrograd is not Russia, nor is Berlin Germany; neither is Athens Greece. It is less the real metropolis of the Hellenic nation than any of the great cities which I have just enumerated are the capital of their respective countries. Athens is all froth and noise, superficiality, political intrigue and political corruption.

It is curious that at a distance of



ATHENS AND THE ACROPOLIS.



ELEUTHERIOS VENIZELOS, FORMER PREMIER OF GREECE WHO MAY BE MADE PRESIDENT OF A GREEK REPUBLIC.

more than half a century the Greeks should be on the eve of once more losing a king and an alien dynasty through an obstinate attempt to enforce German principles of Right Divine and of absolutism against the will of one of the most democratic nations in Europe. For the Greeks are so democratic that they long ago abolished by law all nobiliary titles and dignities, the use of which is prohibited by the terms of the constitution, and that they even refuse to accord the titles of prince and princess to the members of the hitherto reigning family.

King George and his Russian consort, Queen Olga, appreciated this and with rare tact and delicacy conformed themselves thereto. He was the most democratic of monarchs and was constantly to be met riding about in and on the trolley cars at Athens and at the Piræus, with one or another of his daughters, who were his inseparable companions. Even Queen Olga would use the same means of conveyance very often when on her daily visits to the great Evangelion Hospital, which she not only founded and maintained but was wont to personally direct before she migrated to Petrograd after becoming a widow. Their younger sons followed this wholesome example.

But not so their first born, Constantine. Thanks largely to his entirely German education, and more especially to the influence of his masterful Hohenzollern consort, he affected the attitude of his brother-in-law the Kaiser and of the petty German rulers toward their subjects, treating them with condescension and hauteur, as if of inferior clay. King George, who was a sensible man, made no secret of his strong disapproval of his eldest son's behavior in this connection. "I spend my time," he remarked on one occasion to a mutual foreign friend, "in endeavoring to impress upon his mind that we (the reigning family) are nothing here in Greece save through the will and the favor of the

people who have adopted us. I am constantly endeavoring, but I fear in vain, to warn him against impulses arising from his foolish notions of the right divine of princes and kings, which I fear may prove some day disastrous to our family and to the nation."

And then the late King went on to compare Constantine, to his disadvantage, with his other sons, especially Prince George. "That is one who knows how to win hearts. He did not need to be born on the steps of a throne to make his way in the world. He is gifted and he is good. He is a first class sailor. I know what I am talking about, for I belonged to that profession too until I became King."

In fact the late King, who was serving as a midshipman in the British navy when elected by the Greeks to his throne in 1909, and was actually masquerading by way of punishment for some boyish offence when the delegates of the Greek Parliament came on board the warship on which he was serving to tender him the Hellenic crown, did not conceal his conviction that it would be far better for Greece and for his dynasty if he were to be succeeded on the throne by Prince George or one of his other younger sons rather than by Constantine.

Constantine's unpopularity as Crown Prince was so great, and he had rendered himself so profoundly disliked by his arbitrariness when acting as Regent during the annual summer absence of his father at French resorts and in Denmark that eight years ago the officers of the army and of the navy, together with the people, forced his father, King George, to deprive him of all his military honors and dignities and to order him to leave the country and to take up his residence abroad.

Constantine's exile lasted for some eighteen months, and then, just when he had given directions for the removal of all his belongings from Greece, with the object of spending the remainder of his existence abroad, Venizelos, who had meanwhile become

Premier, induced the army, the navy and the people to recall him to Athens, and to restore to him his honors. Had it not been for Venizelos, Constantine would never have succeeded to the throne on the assumption of his father at Salonica in March, 1913.

There are some who will ask as to what specific acts of hostility King Constantine has rendered himself guilty of toward the Powers of the Entente, aside from his openly manifested sympathy for Germany in the present war. There are quite a number of charges against him which cannot be denied, and any one of which would have furnished sufficient excuse to the Entente Powers to remove him from the throne.

He not only permitted but even promoted the use of Greek ports, great and small, as bases for German submarines since the beginning of the war. Bound in the most solemn fashion and by the most ironclad treaties to assist Serbia in resisting Bulgarian invasion, he not only refused to raise a finger in her assistance but even had gone so far as to give up the Greek fortress of Rupel to the Bulgarians. This is a stronghold of much strategic importance, barring the way, or at any rate the best way, from the allied base at Salonica to Sofia. Then there are the orders which he gave to the Greek officers commanding at Kavala to turn over everything to the Bulgarians and Germans and equally extraordinary was his command that the entire Greek army corps at Kavala should en masse join the German flag with all their arms and equipments for service under the German banner in the Balkan eastern front against Russia or on the western front against France and England.

It is no secret that the advance of the Entente forces from Salonica northward has been unduly delayed by the apprehensions on the part of the allied commander-in-chief that the Bulgarians, Gen. Sarraïl, that Constantine would take advantage thereof to endeavor to attack him in the back, in pursuance of the instructions of the Kaiser. Constantine has still some officers ready to do his bidding, thanks to the fact that he has been enabled to double and even triple their pay by means of the money placed at his disposal for the purpose by Emperor William.

Had it not been for this delay on the part of Gen. Sarraïl, his army of 100,000 men, or more, consisting of French, English, Russian, Italian, Serbian and Greek troops, would long ere this have been at Sofia, and in a position to cooperate with King Ferdinand of Rumania against the German and Austrian forces on his border. Rumania is offering a gallant resistance, and with the help of the Russians may yet crush the German and Austrian invading forces. But if she is experiencing unexpected difficulties in doing this, and if she has already sustained some cruel reverses, it is owing to the services rendered by King Constantine to the Kaiser in the delaying of the movement northward of Gen. Sarraïl's army from Salonica.

King Constantine is not an able ruler. He is narrow minded, has no comprehensive grasp or understanding of things and like all such men is frightfully obstinate. If he has thrown in his lot with the Kaiser and has virtually sacrificed his throne and his people for the sake of Germany it is not alone because of his German bringing up and of his complete subjection to his Hohenzollern wife, but because he is foolish enough to still believe something that even the Germans themselves no longer believe, namely, that the present war will end in an overwhelming victory for the Kaiser.

It is because of this and because he is still banking on Germany that he has rejected all the advantageous offers of the Allies for the assistance of Greece, offers which were accepted by Venizelos when Premier, by the Cabinet and by the Legislature, but which he repudiated. These offers included the surrender by England of the large island of Cyprus to Greece and the possession not only of all the Aegean islands still belonging to Turkey, but also some of the richest provinces in Asia Minor, containing a population of several million Greeks eagerly awaiting emancipation from Ottoman tyranny and for union with the Hellenic kingdom.

Today all these offers have been withdrawn. Constantine's hour is past and if Greece emerges from the war with any increase of territory or even with her present borders assured she will owe it entirely to the new provisional republican Government, already recognized by the Entente Powers and now controlling the greater part of Greece under the Presidency of Eleutherios Venizelos.



GREEK FLEET IN PHALERON BAY, ATHENS IS SEEN IN DISTANCE.